

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT:COMBINED MEDIA REPORT, EVENING, MARCH 14, 1975

NO. 25

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

TV

1. ABC: HKSMITH: IN JERUSALEM TODAY SECRETARY OF STATE
KISSINGER PRESENTED TO ISRAEL WHAT HE CALLED CONCRETE
NEW EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS ON PEACE, BUT THE FIRST PUBLIC
ISRAELI REACTION WAS NEGATIVE. WITH MORE ON THE KISSINGER
PEACE EFFORT, HERE IS ABC'S TED KOPPEL:

KOPPEL: KISSINGER'S MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS HAVE REACHED
THE POINT WHERE THEY WILL EITHER BREAK OPEN OR BREAK DOWN.
THE FIRST PUBLIC SUGGESTION CAME LAST NIGHT AT A KISSINGER-
SADAT NEWS CONFERENCE IN ASWAN.

HAK: WE HAVE PASSED FROM EXAMINATION OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES
TO THAT OF EXAMINING CONCRETE IDEAS. AND I SHALL NOW BE
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TAKING SOME OF THESE CONCRETE IDEAS TO ISRAEL TOMORROW.

KOPPEL: THEN, THE KEY QUESTION: DID KISSINGER EXPECT THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD BE COUNTERING WITH SOME CONCRETE

IDEAS OF THEIR OWN?

HAK: I AM, OF COURSE, IN NO POSITION TO SPEAK FOR THE ISRAELI CABINET, BUT I WOULD EXPECT THERE WILL BE SOME CONCRETE ISRAELI IDEAS WHEN I RETURN NEXT TIME.

KOPPEL: THE TIME FOR SKIRTING THE ISSUE, IN OTHER WORDS, IS OVER. BY THE TIME KISSINGER RETURNS TO SADAT'S EMBRACE EARLY NEXT WEEK, HE WANTS TO BRING A MORE FORMALIZED ISRAELI NEGOTIATING POSITION WITH HIM.

TALK OF RETURNING THE ABU RUDEIS OILFIELDS AND THE MITLA AND GIDI PASSES HAS BEEN FLOATING AROUND FOR SO LONG NOW THAT IT SOMETIMES APPEARS AS THOUGH ISRAEL HAS MADE THE PROPOSAL FORMALLY. IT HASN'T. THIS SUNDAY, THOUGH, THE ISRAELI CABINET WILL HAVE TO BITE THE BULLET. THAT AT LEAST WAS THE IMPRESSION THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WENT OUT TO MEET WITH THE ISRAELI NEGOTIATING TEAM THIS AFTERNOON. THE MEETING WAS SCARCELY OVER WHEN PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S CHIEF SPOKESMAN TOLD NEWSMEN THAT IN CERTAIN AREAS EGYPT'S RESPONSE LOOKS INSUFFICIENT, OR EVEN UNSATISFACTORY. AS KISSINGER RETURNED TO HIS HOTEL, THE ISRAELIS WERE MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THEY ARE NOT ABOUT TO BE STAMPEDED. BUT SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS ARE EQUALLY INSISTENT THAT THEY NEVER EXPECTED TOTAL ISRAELI ACCEPTANCE, JUST SOME SOLID COUNTER-PROPOSALS. (THIS WAS 15 MINUTES INTO THE PROGRAM.)

2. NBC: (7 MINUTES INTO THE PROGRAM) CHANCELLOR: SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER IS IN JERUSALEM TODAY; HE HAS GIVEN THE ISRAELIS THE LATEST EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS ON A

SINAI SETTLEMENT. AN ISRAELI OFFICIAL DESCRIBES THEM AS INSUFFICIENT AND EVEN UNSATISFACTORY; AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS HE HAD NOT YET HEARD ANY ISRAELI CRITICISM OF THE PROPOSALS. HERE'S MORE ON THE KISSINGER STORY FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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RICHARD VALERIANI, IN JERUSALEM.

VALERIANI: KISSINGER RETURNED TO ISRAEL TODAY, BELIEVING THE ISRAELIS MUST COME UP WITH CONCRETE IDEAS OF THEIR OWN TO KEEP THE NEGOTIATIONS GOING. AND IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE TIME HAD COME FOR ISRAEL TO CONSIDER REVISING ITS FORMAL PROPOSAL OF LAST DECEMBER, WHICH DID NOT OFFER TO GIVE BACK AS MUCH TERRITORY AS EGYPT IS DEMANDING.

THE SECRETARY WENT DIRECTLY TO A MEETING WITH THE ISRAELI NEGOTIATING TEAM IN JERUSALEM TO REPORT IN DETAIL ON HIS TALKS IN EGYPT. AMERICAN OFFICIALS DESCRIBED THE MEETING

AS VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE.

HAK: WE ARE MOVING FROM A DISCUSSION OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES TO THE EXAMINATION OF CONCRETE IDEAS. I BROUGHT THE EGYPTIAN CONSIDERATIONS IN THIS REGARD TO THE ISRAELI NEGOTIATING TEAM, AND WE REVIEWED THESE, AS WELL AS OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM IN GREAT DETAIL IN A VERY COMRADELY, CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE SPIRIT.

VALERIANI: BUT A SPOKESMAN FOR PM RABIN SAID AFTERWARD THAT AT FIRST GLANCE, ISRAEL REGARDED THE EGYPTIAN RESPONSE IN CERTAIN, UNDEFINED AREAS, AS INSUFFICIENT OR EVEN UNSATISFACTORY. AND HE EMPHASIZED THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE ONLY AT A VERY EARLY STAGE, WITH MANY QUESTIONS STILL OPEN.

LATER, HOWEVER, A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL INSISTED THAT NO SUCH CRITICISM HAD BEEN VOICED BY ANY OF THE OFFICIALS PRESENT AT THE MEETING IN JERUSALEM, NOR HAD THEY BEEN ASKED FOR A REACTION, WHICH IS NOT EXPECTED IN A FORMAL WAY UNTIL AFTER THE CABINET MEETS ON SUNDAY.

AT THE END OF THE FIRST WEEK OF THIS KISSINGER SHUTTLE, THE EGYPTIANS ARE HIGHLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR AN AGREEMENT. THE ISRAELIS ARE CAUTIOUS AND NON-COMMITTAL. KISSINGER HIMSELF IS SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN. JUST BEFORE RETURNING TO ISRAEL, HE TOLD NEWSMEN ABOARD HIS PLANE THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE, UNCLASSIFIED

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BUT SLOWLY. HE SAID HE'S STILL HOPEFUL THAT AN AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED BUT HE ADDED THAT IT'S FAR FROM GUARANTEED.

CBS: ROGER MUDD: SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER BACK IN JERUSALEM PRESENTED ISRAELI LEADERS WITH WHAT HE SAID WERE CONCRETE EGYPTIAN IDEAS FOR A NEW SINAI AGREEMENT, BUT A SENIOR ISRAELI OFFICIAL CRITICIZED THE EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL CALLING IT INSUFFICIENT OR EVEN UNSATISFACTORY. (NO KALB)

WIRES

1. AP SCHWEID/JERUSALEM NITELEAD QUOTES HAK "SOME PROGRESS IS BEING MADE" BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT AN AGREEMENT.

HE WILL CONTINUE THE SHUTTLE UNTIL AGREEMENT IS OR IS NOT

POSSIBLE. CITES AN ISRAELI OFFICIAL THAT TALKS NOT GOING WELL FOR ISRAELI SIDE "EITHER POLITICALLY OR MILITARILY." REPORTS OF EGYPTIAN OPTIMISM ARE NOT

REPEAT NOT CORRECT, SAID ISRAELI. "EGYPT HAS TO DO MORE TO CREATE AN ADEQUATE FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS." RESPONSE INSUFFICIENT OR UNSATISFACTORY.

SENIOR EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL IN ASWAN CITED READINESS FOR FLEXIBILITY, BUT NO CONCESSIONS FOR PASSES AND OILFIELDS. FLEXIBILITY REFERS TO DURATION OF WITHDRAWAL AND "CERTAIN MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS" SADAT CITED SAYING MIXED MILITARY PATROLS WERE BEING CONSIDERED.

2. UPI JERUSALEM NITELEAD REPORTS "CHILLY FIRST REACTION"

BY ISRAELIS TO CONCRETE IDEAS FROM EGYPT, BUT HAK STILL HOPES TO KEEP NEGOTIATIONS GOING.

SENIOR ISRAELI OFFICIAL, NOT REPEAT NOT PRESENT AT NEGOTIATING TEAM MEETING WITH HAK, PROVOKED REACTION FROM "A MORE SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL," SAYING HAK HEARD NO CRITICISM.

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NEGOTIATIONS ONLY BEGINNING; DESPITE SOME PROGRESS THEY COULD FAIL.

SAME AMERICAN BELIEVED HAK WOULD HAVE TO CARRY NEW ISRAELI OFFER TO EGYPT ON MONDAY. ON PLANE EARLIER, HE BELIEVED ISRAELI CABINET HAD TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL OFFER ON WITHDRAWAL FROM PASSES AND OILFIELDS.

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